

covered in an exceedingly practical way. The half-tone illustrations are not only interesting and beautiful, but have in most instances a direct relation to the instructions given in the text.— J. A. A.

Matthews's 'Birds of Australia.'—Part 3¹ of this work, bearing the date April 29, 1911, concludes the account of the Pigeons, of which twelve species are here figured and described, and two additional subspecies are described. While similar in plan and execution with previous parts, the historical and biographical matter is usually restricted to a few quotations from previous writers, and thus much less extended than in Part 1, or than the prospectus might lead one to expect.— J. A. A.

Menegaux on the Birds of Ecuador.²—This report is based on a collection of 885 specimens collected by Dr. Rivet during five years of service as physician to the French Geodetic Survey, 1899–1906, in northern central Ecuador. After a short historical account of previous ornithological work in this region the author proceeds to give in systematic sequence a list of the 274 species obtained, exclusive of the Hummingbirds (33 species) previously reported upon by M. Simon (*cf. antea*, p. 133). The specimens obtained are enumerated, with their localities and more or less descriptive comment, under their respective species, with reference to previous records for the region, and a brief statement of the range of the species and a citation of the place of original description and type locality. The list adds a considerable number of species not previously recorded from the region.

The systematic list is followed by several pages on the climatic and topographic features of the region, with lists of species characteristic of the different climatic and faunal districts, and by a bibliography of about 50 titles. The four colored plates illustrate *Tinamus latifrons* Salvad., *Odontophorus melanonotus* Gould, *Grallaria gigantea* Lawr., and *Philydor columbianus riveti* Meneg. & Hellm.— J. A. A.

Hellmayr's 'The Birds of the Rio Madeira.'³—The present paper of nearly 200 pages is presented "as a complete résumé of our present knowledge of the Ornithology of the Madeira region," here restricted "to that portion of the stream from Borba upwards to the junction of the Beni and Guaporé Rivers." For this area 464 species and subspecies are here recorded.

¹ Birds of Australia, by Gregory M. Matthews. Part 3, April 29, 1911. Royal 4to, pp. 137–184, pll. xxxiv–xliv, colored. Witherby & Co., London.—For notice of previous parts see *antea*, pp. 135 and 289.

² Étude des Oiseaux de l'Équateur rapportés par le Dr. Rivet. Mission du service géographique de l'Armée pour la mesure d'un Arc de Méridien équatorial en Amérique du Sud, 1899–1906, tome IX, pp. B. 1–B. 128, pl. i–iv (colored).

³ The Birds of the Rio Madeira. By C. E. Hellmayr. Novitates Zoologicæ, Vol. XVII, pp. 257–428. December, 1910.

The basis of this report is a collection of 2000 specimens collected by Mr. Wilhelm Hoffmanns in 1906, 1907, and 1908, for the Tring Museum. In addition to this material the author has had access to the Natterer collection in the Vienna Museum, and to specimens in Count Berlepsch's collection. The collector, Mr. Hoffmanns, suffered much from malaria while forming this important collection, and unfortunately died from pneumonia soon after his return to his home in Germany.

The specimens are listed under their respective species, with the dates and localities of collection, while measurements are given of wing, tail and bill, and the collector's notes on the color of the iris, feet and bill from the freshly killed specimen. References are given to previous pertinent records, and there is much technical comment relating to the geographical ranges and affinities of the forms recorded, and on points of nomenclature, etc. The ranges of allied forms and their distinctive points are given in synoptical form for many groups of subspecies, this rendering the report of special convenience and value to future workers in South American ornithology. The critical notes and references are of special importance in connection with previous records. The first reference in the synonymies is to the place of first description, and includes the type locality, if definitely given originally or since assigned, and now assigned if not previously fixed. In short, the report is made up in the same careful and critical manner that has characterised the author's previous faunistic papers.

A geographical summary at the close of the account states that only species that have actually been taken in the Madeira district have been included. The avifauna is said to show a mixed character, with some 30 species peculiar to it, while not a few are found on one bank of the river that do not cross to the other.—J. A. A.

'Feathers and Facts.'—Under this title¹ The Royal Society of Great Britain for the Protection of Birds has issued a statement on the subject of the trade in the plumage of wild birds, giving a brief history of its growth and of the protest and condemnation that have arisen against it. Its main purpose is to disprove various misstatements and allegations put forth by the feather trade defense in their organ 'The Feather Trade.' Among these are: the old story that 'osprey' or egret plumes are not feathers at all, thus deceiving thousands of women into buying egret plumes by the false assertion that they were not egret feathers but an artificial product; and, this having been proved false, the story that the plumes sold were moulted feathers 'picked up' by hunters, and that egrets were "protected by law and custom throughout countless miles of the South American continent," while the condition of the country concerned, and the jungles

¹ *Feathers and Facts: A Reply to the Feather-Trade, and Review of Facts with Reference to the Persecution of Birds for their Plumage.* 8vo, pp. 74. London: Printed for The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 23 Queen Anne's Gate, S. W., by Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. Price sixpence.